

## **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the **Abstract** with the following paragraph:

A process for preparing an exfoliated, high I.V. polymer-platelet particle nanocomposite is generally disclosed. The process includes (i) melt mixing platelet particles with a matrix polymer-compatible oligomeric resin to form an oligomeric resin-platelet particle composite, and (ii) mixing the oligomeric resin-platelet particle composite with a high molecular weight matrix polymer, thereby increasing the molecular weight of the oligomeric resin-platelet particle composite and producing an exfoliated, high I.V. polymer nanocomposite material. Also, a nanocomposite material produced by the process, products produced from the nanocomposite material, and a nanocomposite prepared from an oligomeric resin-platelet particle precursor composite are generally described.